

JULY 2023 ISSUE

The Banner

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH





St. George's Episcopal Church

4301 North IH-35 | Austin, TX | www.sgchurch.org

Office Hours
M-W: 11 am -4 pm
Thursday: Noon - 5pm

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

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Administrator

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Dia Park

Head of the School

Jerri Thompson

Financial Secretary

Samantha Stevens

Treasurer

Frances Rickard

Sr. Warden

Spencer Gordon

Jr. Warden

Hal Stevens

Vestry

Anne Bandholz

Mark Casstevens

Spencer Gordon

Belinda McGhee

John Rickard

Hal Stevens

Sandra Villalaz-Dickson

Ramón Treviño

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Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:45 am Coffee Hour

Sunday Bulletin



July Events Calendar

- 3-Mon: St. George's Pub Club
- 4-Tues: Independence Day (office closed)
St. George's Court Celebration
- 6-Thur: Fr. Matt's Book Group (Batch)
- 8-Sat: Women's Book Group
- 11-Tues: Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
- 20-Thur: Fr. Matt's Book Group (Zoom)
- 25-Tues: Men's Bible Study (Kerby Lane)



[For more details and upcoming events,](#)
[please see our Events Page.](#)

Feast Days

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 - Vladimir of Kiev, King and Confessor, 1015
Common of a Saint I</p> <p>6 - Sexburg, Abbess of Elyc, c. 700, Common of a Monastic II</p> <p>7 - Paladius, Apostle of Ireland, 5th cent.
Common of a Pastor</p> <p>8 - Ss. Aquila and Priscilla, Martyrs, 1st cent.
Common of a Martyr I</p> <p>11 - Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c. 540</p> <p>13 - Silas, Companion of Paul, Martyr, 1st cent.
Common of a Martyr III</p> <p>14 - Bonaventure, Bishop of Albano, 1274
Common of a Theologian and Teacher II</p> <p>15 - Translation of St. Swithun, 862, Common of a Pastor II</p> | <p>17 - William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1836</p> <p>19 - Macrina, Monastic and Teacher, 379</p> <p>20 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Ross Tubman, Liberators and Prophets</p> <p>22 - St. Mary Magdalene</p> <p>24 - Thomas a Kempis, Priest, 1471</p> <p>25 - St. James the Apostle</p> <p>26 - Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>27 - William Reed Huntington, Priest, 1909</p> <p>28 - Samson, Bishop of Dol and Missionary, 565
Common of a Missionary II</p> <p>29 - Mary and Martha of Bethany</p> <p>31 - Ignatius of Loyola, Priest, 1556</p> |
|---|---|



Letter from the Rector

REV. DR. MATT BOULTER

Dependence Day 2023

By now, many of you have, no doubt, heard snippets of Bouquet's story about how her family came to this country in 1980 (when Bouquet was five years old), how they fled communist bullets, how they lived in a refugee camp in Thailand for about a year, finally to be sponsored for United States citizenship by the First Baptist Church of San Antonio.

One story she likes to tell is how her father, after having lived in the U. S. as a political refugee turned U. S. citizen for many years, began to say, "I want to visit my nation's capital." Bouquet assumed he was speaking about Vientiane, Laos, so she began planning an overseas trip. "Then we go to Philadelphia, see Liberty Bell," my father-in-law said with his Asian-accented, broken English. Bouquet realized that the capital of "his nation" was not Vientiane but rather Washington, D. C. His felt sense of citizenship had changed, and so had his patriotism.

Now, Bouquet makes me a better person (a better human, a better Christian) in countless ways, but one of them has to do with patriotism. You see, I often feel a deep sense of antipathy toward my home country, the United States of America. I lament our unjust past; I grieve the ways that past still haunts us and the ways we deny its reality; I detest attempts to cloak the Gospel or the Church in the American flag as if Christianity is an American thing, as if America is a Christian nation in any straightforward sense. In fact, one of the reasons I was drawn to become the rector of St. George's is that I knew that I'd be under no pressure to lead a "patriotic Sunday" on or near July 4, the pressure I have struggled with in the past. For this, I am truly grateful, and for this reason, last Sunday (July 2) was one of my favorite Sundays so far at St. George's.

Letter from the Rector

And yet, how easy it is to go to extremes! To be so obsessed with your own perspective that your tongue becomes the servant of your ego. When it comes to speaking about the relationship between Gospel and America, I have, at times in the past, failed to be guided by humility and love.

How wonderful it is, then, to have a wife (a partner, a teammate, a best friend) who sees things differently! Who reminds me of the other side of the coin: that this nation truly has been a beacon of hope and freedom for so many. This kind of balance is what marriage and the church are all about. We need each other.

"We need each other." In other words, we depend on each other.

Dependence. That is what July 4 has come to mean for me. It is a reminder that, without Bouquet's perspective, I am a fool. Not that we can't have honest disagreements: to the contrary! And yet, I am enriched when I put myself in her shoes and remember and embrace her experience and perspective. For that kind of wisdom, I am dependent on her. As for any good marriage, so also for the church.

Finally, as much as we need and depend on each other, how much more are we dependent on Christ! At the end of the day, those are the same thing.

Happy Dependence Day, 2023!

Faithfully,

Matt+

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

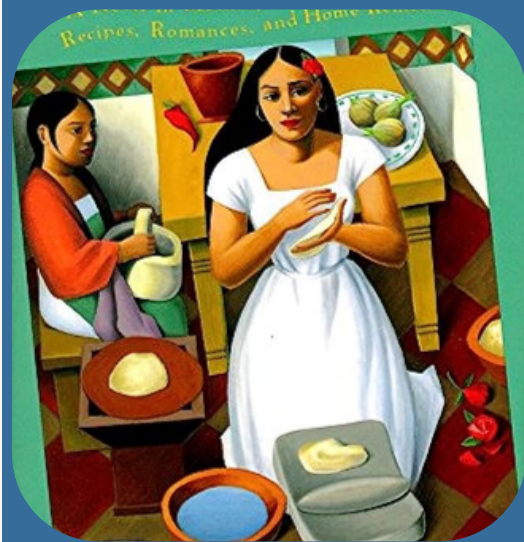


NEWS²⁰²³ LETTER

July



Women's Book Group



A pizza-movie night will be held on July 8 instead of the regular women's book group. The meeting will be at Sarah Campbell's home 4601 Shoal Creek, and the book is *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. Book discussion will be at 5 pm, pizza supper will be served at 6 pm, and the movie will start around 7 pm. All women of the parish are invited to this event and are welcome to attend any or all parts of the schedule. We hope you can join us.

Yellow Envelope Drive

Thank you St. George's!

The Yellow Envelope Drive was a resounding success! Over \$1,100 was raised with just the simple request to have funds on hand for outreach. Once again, the generosity of our congregation delights and inspires us. You are the best!

With our thanks, *Alice and Sarah*

New Outreach Bulletin Board

The Outreach bulletin board on the west side of Kleberg has been enlivened and beautified with the meaningful painting of a lighthouse by our own artist-in-residence Hollie Gordon. Hollie and Alice Nelson have grouped and organized outreach and other parish activities around the lighthouse as places where the light of St. George's shines.

Now you can help complete the bulletin board. We want to add photos, thank you notes, news clippings, etc., about any of these projects and add them to the bulletin board close to where the name of the organization is listed. Anyone with pictures of our projects, notes, or memories from working with any of these organizations is asked to bring them in and tack or staple them to the board. We're more interested in exuberance than neatness.

We recently received a thank you with a generous donation from a grateful recipient of a Christopher House bag. That note will soon be added to the board! Special gratitude to Hollie and her assistant Alice for making this vision a reality.

Help Throw a Birthday Party at St. George's Court!

For the past few months, we've been hosting monthly birthday parties at St. George's Court, our church's affordable housing ministry for seniors. We meet at the Court at 11 am on the first Saturday of the month, serve sandwiches and veggie/fruit trays for lunch, have some table talk with residents, sing happy birthday, play bingo, and we're done by 1:30 pm. Church members are known to have just as much fun as the residents! If you'd like to put a team together to do this or help out on a team for September 2, please contact Andrea Sparks at andreaagalsparks@gmail.com.

*** In lieu of a party on July 1, please join us on Tuesday, July 4, to celebrate Independence Day, birthdays, and *houseaversaries*! Please email Pete Sebert at petesebert317@gmail.com to RSVP!**

SAFE Comfort Bags

A huge thanks to all the workers and carers of St. George's who made this recent gift of 200 comfort bags happen once again. We were thrilled to welcome our new coordinator Sabina Ibarrola and her colleagues, Jennifer and Satchi, to the service on July 18. We were moved by their heartfelt testimony about how much the bags matter to the survivors. The profound witness about the program in Father Matt's sermon made the morning even more meaningful.

Sabina continues to provide us with responses from the recipients of these bags. The few comments chosen for inclusion below are a sample of a large number of comments of appreciation:

- *The survivor commented on the comfort bag, helping her feel warm and secure.*
- *This survivor was very angry and unhappy about the process and experience at the hospital. Receiving the comfort bag was very powerful for her and, in her words, "turned this day around."*
- *The survivor LOVED their comfort bag. They said that they were working through dissociative tendencies in therapy, and they took out the lavender sachet and stress ball and used them both during the interview. They organized the M&Ms by color and ate them during the interview as well - all of those tools were super helpful and deeply appreciated by this neurodivergent survivor.*
- *She loved the comfort bag. She thought it was very pretty and loved that it was blessed by the church.*

Nursery Update

Starting Sunday, July 16, we will be offering nursery care for children three-years old and younger. Some of our wonderful St. George's School teachers will be on staff. The nursery will be located in the red and rose rooms on the school's campus!

Nursery Staff

Rhea Enderle

Ms. Rhea was born in Corpus Christi, where she lived until she left for college in 2011. She attended Texas State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science, with a major in Child Development and a minor in Psychology. Rhea has experience as a Registered Behavioral Therapist working with children on the autism spectrum and as an Early Intervention Specialist, where she taught parents strategies to help their children reach developmental milestones. Rhea is very happy to have joined our team and can't wait to gain more experience and create relationships with children, parents, and staff.



School's out for Summer ... and so is KidsWord!

During the months of July and August, KidsWord will not be meeting. So instead of leaving the worship service to hear their own Bible story, kids get to stay in church with their parents and friends. There are things for coloring and drawing at both entrances to the sanctuary. And a Sunday Paper for kids with an illustrated version of the same story that parents are hearing that day. Parents can find on the back of the Sunday Paper a message that contemplates the lesson. Sometimes it is illuminating. Sometimes it provokes a reaction. Either way there's something more to discuss with your kids if the Spirit moves you! During the service, if you happen to need more room, there is a small carpeted floor space back behind the pews where you can take your child. During the summer season we'll be thinking more about kids being in our worship service. If you have ideas, please pass them on to Jan or Suzette, in person or by email. janphillips62@gmail.com , cshpuckett@austin.rr.com

HELLO
SUMMER!



TIME FOR A
BREAK.

St. George's Episcopal School

Hello all and Happy Summer!

Growing up in New Braunfels, with the two beautiful rivers, summer was always my favorite season, not to mention I have a summer birthday. But, I must admit these summers of late have been brutal. When visiting the classrooms the other afternoon, I was struck by the teacher's patience and perseverance. Imagine taking care of anywhere from 8 to 18 children in a relatively small room and not being able to go outdoors for weeks on end. During the summer months, we start our days outside until about 10:30 am, and then after that, we are indoors due to the "feels like temperature" being dangerously high.

As I walked into one of our youngest classes, a class where the attention span of children is extremely short, the teacher looked at me and said, "Ms. Jerri, I am running out of ideas, can you help?" We strategized and came up with a plan, but again, it really struck me just how taxing it can be for the teachers to be indoors and have to constantly come up with new ideas that will keep the children engaged and happy.

Good teachers have an incredible amount of patience and perseverance, and that is how they get through these difficult times. I thank God for bestowing upon them this fruit of the spirit. Those of us who are called into this profession have an abundant supply. Therefore, what might be impossible for others to endure, we manage and are even able to smile and laugh about it. It takes teamwork, support, and some happy indulgences (frozen treats, pizza Friday, etc.).

As you pray, keep the teachers in your thoughts, please, and send an extra prayer up for them to remain steadfast.

Humbly,

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

Head of School



Let's Celebrate

Birthdays

Eddie Terrazas (July 2)

Margaret Tipps (July 2)

JT Kerrigan (July 3)

Ashley Ibsen (July 5)

Brad Dieringer (July 7)

Athena Navarro (July 9)

Haley Ford (July 13)

Evan O'Donnell (July 16)

JT Sparks (July 18)

Walter Moreau (July 20)

Hal Stevens (July 24)

Lillie Tipps (July 25)

Charlotte Tipps (July 27)

Philip Doty (July 30)

Anniversaries

Philip Doty & Mikail McIntosh-Doty (July 5)

Josh & Anne McGonigle (July 7)

Samantha & Hal Stevens (July 11)

Carolyn & Walter Moreau (July 13)

Fred & Michele Blood (July 23)

Hollie & Spencer Gordon (July 31)

BANNER DEADLINE

The deadline for news and article submissions for the August issue of *The Banner* is

THURSDAY JULY 21

please e-mail your submissions to admin@saintgeorgesAustin.org

LINKS

St. George's Episcopal Church

St. George's Episcopal School

St. George's Court

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Episcopal Church, USA

The Lectionary

Camp Allen

Episcopal Relief and Development